

majority. This was the first and only defeat Umstead ever met with in his political career.

In the campaign no bitterness was engendered. Umstead gracefully bowed to the will of the majority of the Democratic voters in the Primary, and entered into the campaign in the fall of 1948 with as much enthusiasm, and campaigned as vigorously for Broughton's election, as if he himself had been the candidate. He had lost the nomination for the Senate in the spring of 1948, but he captured the hearts of the Democrats of North Carolina in the fall of 1948. He had exhibited that fine spirit of sportsmanship that challenges the admiration of friend and foe alike.

When Congress adjourned in the fall of 1948, Senator Umstead resumed the practice of law in Durham. However, he was not to remain in private life long.

In the spring of 1952, the Democrats of North Carolina chose him as their candidate for Governor. His nomination for Governor was overwhelmingly ratified by the people in the fall of 1952. More than 700,000 voters chose William Umstead to chart the course of the State for the next four uncertain years. They did so because of their confidence in his vision, his sincerity, and his incorruptible integrity.

People rejoiced that he had again been called to high service. They knew he would take office, free and uncommitted, and that when the commission as Governor of the State of North Carolina and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth were delivered to him they would be received by clean hands. They knew also that when the term of his office to which he had been elected had expired, they would be returned untarnished to the people who gave them.

He was inaugurated as Governor on the 8th day of January, 1953. The transition from playboy and driver of a sand wagon to Prosecuting Attorney of the Recorder's Court of Durham County, Solicitor of the Tenth Judicial District, Member of the House of Representatives of the United States, United States Senator, and Governor of North Carolina, came as a deserved reward for arduous, patient, intelligent, unremitting toil.

Within two days after Governor Umstead's inauguration he was stricken with a serious heart attack. For nearly two years, against ever-increasing odds, he carried on, part of the time from a sickbed in Watts Hospital at Durham, and part of the time from a sickroom in the Mansion in Raleigh. Twice after his first attack he was hospitalized. Against the advice of physicians and friends, a dogged determination drove him to the continued discharge of his duties and responsibilities as Governor. Although he was under the constant threat of death, he continued his fight to carry out the promises he had made to the people of the State of North Carolina. Finally his frail body broke under the continued strain, and on early Sunday morning, November 7, 1954, he quietly passed into the Great Beyond. He had answered the call, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He had literally given his life in the performance of the duties he had assumed on becoming Governor.